IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the following paragraphs, and amend as follows:

[0004] The second category contains path-oriented tools for connectivity and latency measurement, such as "ping," "traceroute" (*see, e.g.*, Richard, "TCP/IP illustrated," Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1994 ~~in its entirety~~) and "skitter" (*see, e.g.*, Cooperative Association for Internet Data Analysis (CAIDA), http://www.caida.org/), and tools for bandwidth measurement, such as "pathchar," (*see, e.g.*, Jacobsen, "Pathchar -- A Tool to Infer Characteristics of Internet Paths," April 1997, ftp:/ftp.ee.lbl.gov/pathchar), "Cprobe," (*see, e.g.*, Carter, *et al.*, "Server Selection Using Dynamic Path Characterization in Wide-Area Networks," in Proceedings of IEEE INFOCOM'99, Kobe, Japan, April 1997) "Nettimer," (*see, e.g.*, Lai, *et al.*, "Measuring Bandwidth," in Proceedings of IEEE INFOCOM '99, New York City, New York, March 1999) and "pathrate" (*see, e.g.*, Dovrolis, *et al.*, "What Do Packet Dispersion Techniques Measure?," in Proceedings of IEEE INFOCOM '2001, Alaska, April 2001). As an example, skitter sends a sequence of probe messages to a set of destinations and measures the latency of a link as the difference in the round-trip times of the two probe messages to the endpoints of the link. A benefit of path-oriented tools is that they do not require special monitoring agents to be run at each node. However, a node with such a path-oriented monitoring tool, termed a monitoring station, is able to measure latencies and monitor faults for only a limited set of links in the node's routing tree (*e.g.*, shortest path tree). Thus, monitoring stations need to be deployed at a few strategic points in the ISP or enterprise IP network so as to maximize network coverage while minimizing hardware and software infrastructure costs, as well as maintenance costs for the stations.

[0019] Existing network monitoring tools can be divided into two categories. The first category contains node-oriented tools for collecting monitoring information from network devices (routers, switches and hosts) using Simple Network Management Protocol/Remote MONitoring ("SNMP/RMON") probe messages (*see*, Stallings, "SNMP, SNMPv2, SNMPv3, and RMON 1 and 2," Addison-Wesley Longman Inc., 1999, (Third Edition), ~~incorporated herein by reference in its entirety~~) or the Cisco NetFlow tool (*see*, "NetFlow Services and Applications," Cisco Systems, 1999,

~~incorporated herein by reference in its entirety~~). These are useful for collecting statistical and billing information and for measuring the performance of individual network devices (*e.g.*, link bandwidth usage). However, in addition to requiring monitoring agents to be installed at every device, these tools cannot monitor network parameters that involve several components, such as link or end-to-end path latency.